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Drew Pearson, News Columnist, Marks 25th Anniversary; Scored Many 'Firsts'

Drew Pearson, internationally known newspaper columnist, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his column last Thursday by taking off for North Africa to help entertain American service personnel stationed there.

For the past two years, Pearson has brought holiday entertainment to servicemen in Greenland and Labrador. This year he took the Harlem Globe-Trotters and the United States All-Stars, together with Barney Ross, former world's lightweight and welterweight champion, and a group of entertainers, to liven up the Christmas season for U.S. troops in Morocco and Libya.

Pearson began his column, Washington-Merry-Go-Round, in December, 1932, during the dark days of the depression. When it began it appeared in just six newspapers. During the past quarter of a century it has been picked up by hundreds of other papers throughout the country. It appears regularly on the editorial page of The Paterson Evening News.

There have been many Pearson scoops and achievements through the years. Drew Pearson is probably best known, however, for his consistent record of warning the nation how far ahead Russia was getting in modern weapons.

His warnings on Russia's science and weapons gains since World War II and the dates on which they appeared in his column include:

1946

8/17—Pearson's first warning that Russia had started the missile race came just one year after the VJ day when, in one of a series of columns devoted to post war Russian relations, he reported:

... feverish Soviet experiments with the atomic bomb and cosmic ray. The presence of rocket bombs over Sweden is known to be Russian experimentation with radio-controlled rockets eventually calculated to hit England or perhaps across the Arctic Circle ... the armaments race once more is on."

1947

10/17 Army-Navy estimate Russia will have A-bomb in quantity by 1951, but she has secret now.
10/18 General Groves says Russia presently lacks industrial power to produce A-bomb, but will have it by 1951.

1948

1/14 Again, in a series devoted to tensions with Russia, Pearson reported:

"The Red Army has taken over German jet-plane plants and developed jet-propelled planes which are faster than those built by the U.S. Army ...

"The Russians have improved the German buzz-bomb to a point where they now are producing a deadly, controlled missile that will travel between 1,700 and 1,800 miles ...

"The fact is inescapable that at the last Russian military maneuvers, six new types of jet planes were flown in view of foreign military attaches ...

"The Russians have acquired and perhaps refined all the secrets of the German submarine, including the 'snorkel' ...

3/15 Russia is reported to have 100,000 missiles of type sighted over Sweden.

4/7 Russia's sub fleet now is five times bigger than Hitler's at peak.

4/21 Air Secretary Symington has warned Russia is building planes twelve times faster than the United States.

4/23 Russia has an improved tank better than any U.S. tank.

5/15 Russia definitely has the A-bomb.

1949

3/29 Marshal Tito has warned Russia is building big, secret submarine base in Albania.

4/21 American Embassy in Moscow reports flying objects over Russia; may be rockets.

4/25 British Vampire and Meteor jets are only Allied planes capable of matching 600 mph Soviet jets.

6/16 Hundreds of Soviet engineers and geologists developing huge uranium deposits near Archangel; extensive uranium mining also being carried on in satellite countries.

11/5 Russia scientists racing to develop biggest A-bomb.

11/28 Russia has first-rate radar defense system working; inner defense complete; outer radar network complete except in Siberia, and latter being pushed at top speed. Means revision of U.S. strategy, since we've counted on being able to get bombers to Russia undetected in advance.

12/8 U. S. Ambassador Kirk in Moscow has warned that despite predictions to contrary, Russia breaking industrial production records.

12/24 Astounding news of Russia's A-bomb caused backstage debate at White House over whether to announce. Bomb much

1950

2/3 U.S. Air Force totals 17,800 planes, many in mothballs. Russia produced 15,500 planes last year alone. Soviet strategy has been revised and geared to atomic war; half of defense budget for air force. 3,000 heavy bombers produced last year in addition to fast fighters.

5/21 Admiral Sherman worried over growth of Russian navy.

6/15 Guided missiles may make big bombers obsolete.

11/30 American ordnance officers pop-eyed at Soviet weapons captured in Korea; we've underestimated their strength as much as 50 per cent.

12/17 Dr. Vannevar Bush has commented that while we build TV for entertainment, Russia has built radar for defense.

1951

(This was the year Senator McCarthy denounced Pearson from the Senate Floor as a spokesman for Communism and wrote to every newspaper asking that they cancel his column. Only one canceled.)

1/26 General Vandenberg worried over high quality of Soviet jets in Korea.

5/4 Russia now putting emphasis on long-range bombers, fewer fighters.

5/6 U.S. expects to launch atomic sub in '54; Russia likely to have one a year later.

5/18 Russia pushing six huge hydro-electric projects to provide power for A-bombs and H-bombs; means Russia is going all-out.

7/18 Soviet jets in Korea as good or better than ours.

10/11 U. S. scientists skeptical of British reports that Russia has H-bomb.

10/18 U.S. F86's are our only jet as good as Soviet MIGs in Korea, but we are outnumbered 5-1.

10/28 Admiral Kirk, U. S. Ambassador to Russia, has warned the Russians are making tremendous strides in atomic work; we must not underestimate their ability to produce complex weapons.

12/4 Superior Russian planes have caused U.S. Air Force to make drastic revisions in our production schedules.

1952

2/8 Russia is not only out-producing us in planes, but in pilots. Training them in Korea.

5/29 U.S. scientists now worried over reports of rapid Soviet progress with atomic weapons.

6/18 Senate Committee report critical of HST for ignoring warnings of Joint Chiefs of Staff and putting fiscal considerations ahead of national safety.

7/4 Russians with less money, less equipment, and less fat, have ten times the firepower per man as the U.S. Army.

10/4 Russia has built ring of long range bomber bases in Arctic.

10/18 Russia building huge air base on Ostrov Rudolph Island, 6 hrs. from Thule, Greenland.

11/2 British warn U.S. underestimating Russia; Russia producing 20 per cent more than we believe possible.

12/24 AEC scientists complaining secrecy interfering research.

1953

2/3 Our navy lagging in production of anti-sub weapons.

6/4 Soviet atomic stockpile growing rapidly; enough for war in '56.

6/10 General Vandenberg indicated Soviet atomic strength, in urging that we not cut our airpower.

9/24 Joint Chiefs haven't budgeted because Eisenhower hasn't decided what to do about H-bomb defense. Most difficult problem facing Ike is whether to sacrifice security for budget reasons.

10/3 Air samples show Russia ahead of U.S. in one phase of H-bomb. AEC has revised estimate Russia two years behind us.

10/7 Secretary Humphrey says economy can only come through slicing military.

1954

1/18 Joint Chiefs of Staff's viewpoints on Russia have changed. Reason, within two years Russia can meet and challenge U.S. air power.

5/25 Eisenhower has reversed Truman policy of announcing Russia's bombs. Russia still appears ahead of us in some phases of H-bomb tests.

11/23 U.S. experts jolted at Damascus fair by excellence of Russian steel, aluminum, machine tools.

1955

4/26 Air supremacy swinging to Russia; far superior to U.S. in heavy bombers.

5/6 Soviet submarine menace growing.

6/14 Air Force appealing for inventor ideas on guided missiles in effort to check our falling behind Russia.

8/7 Our greatest peril is possibility of guided missiles from Soviet's Arctic bases.

1956

1/30 Secretary Quarles wants to appeal for scientists on defense work instead of commercial projects; says means losing guided missiles race. Administration won't allow appeal.

2/18 Trevor Gardner has astounded Congress on how U.S. lags behind Russia on ICBM's.

4/27 Wilson scoffs at fu

4/27 Trevor Gardner ousted over missile program; Khrushchev boasting Russia will have ICBM ahead of U.S.

5/3 Russia has outstripped U.S.

5/4 Two years ago Secretary Wilson scoffed at reports Russia would have jet bomber. One year ago, first Soviet jet bomber was a shock; now they have 18. Fantastic truth is Russia developed hers in four years; it took us eight to develop the B-52.

5/31 U.S. defense posture alarming; CIA reports Russia ahead of us on guided missiles and probably will build ICBM first. Also will launch an earth satellite a year ahead of U. S.

6/28 Secretary Wilson ignores Intelligence reports on Soviet progress.

7/11 Russia's education system catching up with U.S.; turning out more teachers, twice as many engineers. Illiteracy reduced, may even be better than in U.S.

(This was one year before the current popular outcry to improve American scientific education.)

12/21 U.S. to test fire our first IRBM next month. Russia already has several dozen IRBM's, with ranges from 700-1,500 miles, plus two launchable from submarines with range 150 miles.

1957

3/11 5/16 5/15 Col. John Nickerson memo details faults in our missile program.

5/12 Russia has 88 per cent of her long-range bombers based in Arctic. British experts amazed at her anti-tank guns in Egypt; finest in world for their size.

7/30 Russia passing us in education.

8/31 We've known three months that Russia launched ICBM; they've also fired IRBM's from ships in Arctic. They'll launch satellite ahead of us.

10/9 U. S. lost missile race through interservice rivalry, curtailed budgets, persecution of scientists.

10/16 British so worried over Russia science, Macmillan wants to come to Washington to confer with Eisenhower.

10/25 Army's had six satellites ready to go in Alabama; forbidden by Pentagon.

11/8 Pentagon alarmed by size of second Sputnik.

11/10 Soviet scientific reports untranslated because budget doesn't allow it. Contain much information on satellites and missiles. CIA translates some but does not have scientists evaluate them.

11/27 Soviet missile progress, canceling value of our overseas bases, many of which within Soviet range.